

In the claims:

1. (Previously amended) O-desmethylvenlafaxine prepared by reacting venlafaxine with a high molecular weight alkane or arene thiolate anion in an alcohol, ethylene glycol, ether of ethylene glycol, or mixture thereof, and neutralizing the product to the isoelectric point; wherein the O-desmethylvenlafaxine is crystalline and contains no more than about 1% venlafaxine as an impurity.
2. (Previously amended) O-desmethylvenlafaxine prepared by demethylating venlafaxine with dodecyl thiolate and polyethylene glycol 400 in the presence of sodium methylate in methanol at about 180C to about 200 C for about 2 to about 5 hours and neutralizing the product to about pH 9.5 in the presence of isopropanol, wherein the O-desmethylvenlafaxine is crystalline and contains no more than about 1% venlafaxine as an impurity.
- (New) 3. Crystalline o-desmethylvenlafaxine base.
- (New) 4. O-desmethylvenlafaxine of Claim 3 containing no more than about 1% venlafaxine as an impurity.